

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
USMISSION NATO
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C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 673

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, CZ, GW, US
SUBJECT: BRIEFING ON VISIT OF FRG FOREIGN MINISTER

REF: PRAGUE 657 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. GERMAN AMBASSADOR RITZEL BRIEFED NATO AMBASSA-
DORS MARCH 27 ON VISIT OF FRG FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER
MARCH 24-26. ALTHOUGH HE SUMMED UP THE VISIT AS PART OF AN
ONGOING ROUTINE, AND NOTHING SENSATIONAL, HE SAID GERMANS
PLEASED AT UNUSUALLY POSITIVE TONE AND WARM ATMOSPHERE, GOING
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BEYOND THAT OF OTHER RECENT CZECH-GERMAN MEETINGS. PROGRESS

WAS PARTICULARLY NOTABLE IN TRADE AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION. ON KEY QUESTION OF HUMANITARIAN ISSUES (MAINLY EMIGRATION OF PEOPLE OF GERMAN ORIGIN), RITZEL SAID GERMANS HAD FIRM EXPECTATION THAT CHANGES WOULD OCCUR BEFORE END 1975. END SUMMARY.

2. OVERALL VIEW. FONMIN CHNOUPEK TOLD GERMANS HE HAD REPORTED MARCH 12 TO CENTRAL COMMITTEE ON FORTHCOMING GERMAN VISIT AND CC HAD TAKEN DECISION TO TREAT VISIT IN "CONSTRUCTIVE AND POSITIVE WAY." RITZEL SAID THESE INSTRUCTIONS WERE WELL CARRIED OUT, AND FRIENDLINESS OF GENSCHER'S RECEPTION BY ALL THOSE HE MET --INCLUDING CHNOUPEK, PRIMIN STROUGAL, AND PARTY CHIEF HUSAK -- WAS REMARKABLE. CHNOUPEK HAD BEEN EXEMPLARY HOST, AND ATMOSPHERE -- ESPECIALLY DURING EVENING AT SLOVAK RESTAURANT -- HAD BEEN QUITE CHUMMY. PRESS TREATMENT HAD BEEN UNUSUALLY POSITIVE. (SEPARATE BRIEFINGS ON VISIT WERE HELD FOR CZECH AND SLOVAK PRESS, AND GERMAN EMBASSY AT LEAST FELT SLOVAKS EVEN WARMER IN TONE THAN CZECHS. THIS IS PROBABLY LESS GERMANOPHILIA THAN CHNOUPEK'S INFLUENCE WITH PRESS.)

3. OTHER VISITS. CHNOUPEK ACCEPTED RETURN INVITATION WITHOUT SETTING DATE. ACCEPTED INVITATION IS OUTSTANDING FOR HUSAK AND STROUGAL, BUT INVITATIONS ARE ALSO OUTSTANDING FOR PARTY CHIEFS AND PRIMINS IN HUNGARY, BULGARIA, AND POLAND, ALL OF WHICH NORMALLY SHOULD COME BEFORE CZECHOSLOVAK VISIT. HUSAK-STROUGAL VISIT COULD COME WINTER '75 '76, CHNOUPEK MAYBE SOONER.

4. GENSCHER'S DISCUSSIONS. GENSCHER COVERED RANGE OF MULTILATERAL AND BILATERAL ISSUES WITH CHNOUPEK, SPENT 60 PERCENT OF TIME WITH STROUGAL ON BILATERAL MATTERS. HE MET (IN HIS CAPACITY AS FDP CHAIRMAN) WITH HUSAK AND CHNOUPEK (WHO WAS LISTED IN HIS ROLE OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER TO KEEP UP FRONT OF PARTY MEETING); MEETING LASTED SOMEWHAT OVER AN HOUR AND WENT OVER GROUND COVERED IN OTHER TWO MEETINGS.

5. MULTILATERAL ISSUES. THESE WERE DISCUSSED FIRST DAY AND NO SPECIAL NEWS CAME FORTH. WORKING OUT COMMUNIQUE PROVED CONFIDENTIAL

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FAIRLY EASY, AND CZECHS CAME AROUND TO A NUMBER OF GERMAN POSITIONS ON COMMUNIQUE LANGUAGE, ESPECIALLY ON MIDDLE EAST, WHERE GERMANS INSISTED ON DROPPING DETAILED LANGUAGE AND MERELY REFERRING TO UN RESOLUTIONS OF 1967 AND 1973. KING FIASAL'S DEATH CAME IN MIDDLE OF VISIT, AND BOTH SIDES FELT HIS DEATH WAS LOSS FOR PEACE IN THE AREA. (GENSCHER HAD BEEN SCHEDULED TO BE IN SAUDI ARABIA AT TIME OF FAISAL'S DEATH, BUT CHANGED IN ORDER TO MEET CZECH DESIRES FOR EARLIER VISIT HERE.) ON

CSCE, GERMANS SURPRISED THAT CZECHS DID NOT PUSH HARD ON TERMINATION DATE, SAYING SEVERAL TIMES "UNE 30 OR LATER." ON CSCE AND MBFR, TALK WAS OVER WELL-KNOWN GROUND, FOR GERMANS FELT SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES HAD BETTER BE RAISED IN GENEVE OR VIENNA. ON CYPRUS, CZECHS DROPPED SEVERAL FORMULATIONS FROM COMMUNIQUE, INCLUDING REFERENCE TO WORKING OUT CYPRUS PROBLEM WITHIN UN FRAMEWORK.

6. BILATERAL. INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION. RITZEL SAID THEY SEE DEFINITE PROGRESS IN THIS AREA. THREE INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION GROUPS HAVE BEEN SET UP, AND CZECHS HAVE NAMED THEIR CHAIRMEN WHILE GERMANS HAVE ONLY NAMED ONE. THEY WILL MOVE ALONG ON THIS FRONT, FOR THEY WANT CONCRETE PROGRESS, INCLUDING MEETING OF UMBRELLA GOVERNMENT COMMISSION, BEFORE TENTATIVE VISIT OF ECONOMIC MINISTER FRIEDRICH IN MID-SEPTEMBER. CZECHS ARE PRESSING HARD FOR MORE SPECIFIC COOPERATION. RITZEL NOTED THAT GOOD START CAME FROM VERY LOW BASE, E.G. FRG HAD ONLY 16 INDUSTRIAL AGREEMENTS IN FORCE WITH CZECHOSLOVAKIA, COMPARED WITH 176 WITH HUNGARY.

7. TRAFFIC AGREEMENTS. THREE ARE IN THE WORKS, ON CANALS, ROADS, AND AIRLINES. CANALS IMPORTANT TO CZECHS BECAUSE THEY HAVE LARGE RIVERBOAT FLEET (470, ACCORDING TO RITZLE) AND THEY NEED FREIGHT; AT PRESENT FRG ONLY PERMITS THEM TO USE CERTAIN STRETCHES OF CANAL, BUT PLANNED AGREEMENT WOULD ALLOW CZECH BOATS ALL OVER FRG AND ONWARD. CZECHS HAVE PRESENTED DRAFT AND AGREEMENT SHOULD BE DONE THIS YEAR. ROAD AGREEMENT WOULD GOVERN DISTRIBUTION OF FREIGHT LOAD, WHICH IS NOW WITHOUT RESTRICTION AND GOES MAINLY TO CZECH CARRIER. THIS ALSO LIKELY. AIR AGREEMENT LESS LIKELY, FOR CURRENT INTER-AIRLINE AGREEMENT (WITHOUT ANY GOVERNMENTAL ACCORD) IS WORKING SATISFACTORILY.

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8. CULTURAL AGREEMENT. SOUNDINGS NOW CONCLUDED AND DRAFTS TO BE SUBMITTED THIS MONTH. FRG FEELS IT HAS MUCH MORE TO GAIN BY HAVING CULTURAL AGREEMENT, AND WILL PRESS THIS, HOPING TO SIGN LATER IN 1975.

9. AGREEMENT ON SCIENTIFIC-TECHNICAL LEVEL. THIS WAS HELD UP BY BERLIN CLAUSE QUESTION. IT WAS AGREED THAT AN AGREEMENT WOULD AWAIT FRG WORKING OUT SATISFACTORY BERLIN CLAUSE WITH USSR, ALTHOUGH LOW-LEVEL TECHNICAL COOPERATION WOULD BE STARTED. GERMANS LOOKING FOR FORMULA TO AVOID CUTTING BERLIN INSTITUTIONS OUT OF COOPERATION PROVIDED FOR IN AGREEMENT.

10. HUMANITARIAN ISSUES. HERE RITZEL WARNED THAT HE MUST SPEAK WITH CIRCUMSPECTION, AND COULD NOT GO BEYOND HIS BRIEF.

THIS WAS THAT GENSCHER HAD RAISED ISSUE WITH ALL THREE (CHNOUPEK, STROUGAL, HUSAK), AND GERMANS DEFINITELY EXPECTED THAT THINGS WOULD CHANGE BY END 1975. THIS WAS SENSITIVE AREA, ESPECIALLY SINCE EXIT PERMITS HAD BEEN MINUSCULE (ONLY 350-400) SINCE FRG-CSSR TREATY SIGNED, AND THESE MOSTLY FOR OLD PEOPLE. IT WAS ALSO TRUE HOWEVER THAT ORIGINAL ESTIMATES OF NUMBERS OF GERMANS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA WERE MUCH TOO HIGH, OVER 20,000, WHEREAS NOW THEY ESTIMATED NO MORE THAN 6 TO 7,000. GERMANS HAD NOT ASKED CZECHS TO PUSH PUBLICITY ON THEIR AGREEMENT ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF GERMANS LEAVING FOR FRG, BECAUSE IT WAS BETTER ALL AROUND IF NOT TOO MANY PEOPLE TRIED TO LEAVE AT ONCE. UNDER QUESTIONING BY CANADIAN AMBASSADOR, RITZEL SAID CHANGE IN EMIGRATION SITUATION FOR GERMANS WOULD BE SUBSTANTIAL, NOT MERELY SYMBOLIC." TO FURTHER QUESTIONING, HE SAID DISCUSSION WAS PURELY IN BILATERAL CONTEXT, AND HE HAD NO INDICATION THIS WOULD AFFECT OTHER COUNTRIES.

11. OTHER MATTERS. ASKED ABOUT TRADE RESTRICTIONS, WHICH FIGURED IN PRESS COVERAGE, RITZEL SAID THIS DISCUSSED BRIFLY. GERMANS TRYING TO LIBERALIZE, AND PLANNED TO DO MORE DURING 1975, BUT ON SOME ITEMS, ESPECIALLY TEXTIELS, THEY SIMPLY COULD NOT LIFT RESTRICTIONS. CZECHS UNDERSTOOD THEIR POSITION. UK AMBASSADOR ASKED ABOUT PHRASE "COEXISTENCE OF DIFFERING SOCIAL SYSTEMS," NOTING THAT DURING WILSON'S MOSCOW TRIP WORD "DIFFERING" HAD BEEN DROPPED, WHICH WAS FELT TO BE A GAIN. RITZEL SAID BOTH SIDES ACCEPTED THE WORD WITHOUT CONFIDENTIAL

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DISCUSSION. ON THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF VE, RITZEL SAID PUSHING UP OF GENSCHER'S VISIT PROBABLY WAS PARTLY TO AVOID TOO CLOSE TIMING WITH VE DAY CELEBRATIONS., HE EXPECTED UNDERTONE OF ANTI-GERMAN SENTIMENT, BUT DID NOT THINK THIS WOULD BE OVERDONE. ON QUESTION OF VISITORS HAVING TO EXCHANGE CERTAIN AMOUNG OF HARD CURRENCY DAILY, EVEN DURING EXTENDED STAYS, GERMANS HAD RAISED HUNGARIAN EXAMPLE, WHERE ONE PAYS ONLY FIRST 10 DAYS, AND CZECHS PROMISED TO CONSIDER THIS SYSTEM. FINALLY, GERMANS HAD RAISED THORNY QUESTION OF LONG AND HARD ENTRY INTO CZECHOSLOVAKIA FOR GERMAN MOTRISTS, AND CZECHS HAD PROMISED TO SPEND GOODLY SUM TO IMPROVE FACILITIES TO SPEED UP PROCESS.

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